

Drugstores plentiful in early Laramie  
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People can get just about anything they want without having to get out of their vehicle thanks to the popularity of drive-throughs. Even picking up a prescription is as easy as pulling up to the pick-up window.

Laramie pharmacies were not quite as convenient at the turn of the 20th century, but they were plentiful.

One of the most memorable drugstores in town was the Cordiner Store, owned by A.H. (Harry) Cordiner.

His parents were from a well-known pioneer family who came from Scotland in 1868.

Cordiner grew up in Laramie and attended the University of Wyoming for four years before opening the store around 1895, according to a 1942 article in the Laramie Daily Bulletin.

Cordiner held Wyoming pharmacist's license No. 31, which at the time was the oldest active license in the state.

The drugstore did well, and Cordiner was respected in the community. Eventually, Cordiner's son Harry took over managing the store and kept up the established reputation.

“Among the younger business men of the city is Harry Cordiner, manager of the Cordiner Pharmacy, on Second street, between Grand avenue and Garfield Street, where painstaking attention to business in all its ramifications has made for Mr. Cordiner a name that is not confined to the city or its immediate surroundings,” the 1905 Laramie Republican Illustrated Section says.

The store was always stocked with plenty of goods, but Cordiner demanded the product manufacturers used in the store be well known.

The store did well enough to be honored by “The Rocky Mountain Druggist” in its March 1945 issue with a full-page article.

The article not only praised the Cordiner store saying: “A.H. Cordiner is indeed one of the most dependable ‘old wheel horses’ in Wyoming Pharmacy,” but it also thanked him for his service in the state legislature in passing bills to streamline pharmacy service in the state.

Cordiner's dealings were not limited to pharmacy affairs, he was also active in politics.

He was a member of the state house of representatives for several years. He served as chairman in the House and was a member of a number of committees.

“Laws pertaining to Albany County have always received his undivided attention, especially where the best interests of the University have been concerned,” according to the 1942 Bulletin article.

Another prominent drugstore in town was Eggleston Pharmacy.

“The pharmacy is one of the pleasantest rooms in the city and is filled not only with drugs needed in caring for the demands of the sick, but in every adjunct of a first-class pharmacy,” the 1905 Republican says.

The pharmacy carried stock of more than just drugs, it also had toiletries, proprietary articles and luxury articles.

Its history interweaves with Cordiner Store. Cordiner's original store was located on Second

Street in Laramie.

He eventually closed it and went to work for Eggleston. By 1920, Cordiner decided to purchase Eggleston Pharmacy and rename it Cordiner Store, which he operated until the 1950s.

Another competing pharmacy in early Laramie was the Laramie Drug Company run by Harry Prahl. The store was located on the corner of Second and Thornburg, which would eventually be renamed Ivinson. The store had not been in business long at the turn of the century, but Prahl's attention to cleanliness and carefully selected stock had attracted many customers.

“Several things enter into the composition of a successful business man — chief among which are honesty, fair dealing, proper attention to the needs of the trade and conscientious endeavor to do the best one can for the benefit of his fellow man,” the 1942 Bulletin article says.

Other competing drug stores included Mill's University Drugstore, the Condit's Drugstore and Eagle Pharmacy among several others.

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